



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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BAKERSFIELD MEN SENTENCED FOR COUNTERFEITING U.S. CURRENCY

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL ANTHONY WILLIS, 24, of Bakersfield, Calif., was sentenced today by United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger to 25 months in prison for conspiracy to manufacture and possess counterfeit United States currency. Co-defendant CHRISTOPHER STEPHEN WILLIS, 20, of Bakersfield, was sentenced by Judge Wanger on August 18, 2008 to 17 months in prison for conspiracy to manufacture and possess counterfeit United States currency.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Fresno Resident Office of the United States Secret Service and the Kern County Sheriff's Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kirk Sherriff, who prosecuted the case, the defendants admitted that between December 2007 and January 21, 2008, they acquired digital and electronic images of United States currency and then used computer equipment to manufacture counterfeit currency from such images. Counterfeit currency manufactured by the defendants was passed at businesses both in the Bakersfield area and elsewhere, including \$9,800 in counterfeit \$100 bills passed at a casino.

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